

UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF CALIFORNIA

FIDELITY NATIONAL FINANCIAL, INC., et
al.,

Civil No. 09cv0140-DMS (CAB)

Plaintiffs,

v.

NATIONAL UNION FIRE INSURANCE
COMPANY OF PITTSBURGH, PA., et al.,

**ORDER GRANTING IN PART AND
DENYING IN PART DEFENDANT'S
MOTION TO COMPEL FURTHER
DISCOVERY RESPONSES**

[Doc. No. 161]

Defendants.

Before the Court is defendant National Union Fire Insurance Company's ("National") motion to compel a further Rule 26 disclosure and responses to interrogatories from plaintiff Fidelity National Financial Inc. ("Fidelity"). [Doc. No. 161.] Fidelity opposed the motion. [Doc. No. 169.] The Court held a telephonic hearing on January 12, 2011. Andrew Agati, Esq., appeared for Fidelity. Kenneth Watnick, Esq., appeared for National. Having considered the submissions of the parties and the arguments of counsel, the motion is **GRANTED** in part and **DENIED** in part.

This is a breach of contract case. Fidelity is insured by National under a Financial Institution Bond No. 494-69-89. In 2008, Fidelity provided National with a collection of 31 proofs of loss for claimants who alleged to have suffered damages as a result of a fraud scheme involving investments in connection with a condominium project generally referred to as Crown Point. [Doc. No. 161 at 2.] The

1 proofs collectively exceeded the policy limit and Fidelity requested coverage under the bond and
 2 payment. National did not pay and on September 15, 2008, Fidelity sued National for breach of contract
 3 and other counts. The action was transferred to this District and shortly thereafter stayed while the
 4 alleged fraud that resulted in the damages was investigated. In July 2010, Fidelity reported to the Court
 5 that all claims of all parties in the underlying fraud actions had been resolved and requested the stay be
 6 lifted in this coverage case. [Doc. No. 144.]

7 The fraud claims evolved during the underlying litigation and on December 28, 2009, Fidelity
 8 withdrew the original 31 proofs of loss and submitted 11 revised proofs of loss. [Doc. No. 161 at 2 &
 9 Ex. 5-15 lodged in supp. of National's mot.] It is the Court's understanding based on Fidelity's report
 10 these 11 claims have been resolved, that this litigation seeks a determination these the claims are covered
 11 by the bond, damages for the amounts paid to the claimants, and an additional determination that
 12 National's failure to tender payment in 2008 was in bad faith and related damages for that claim.

13 Rule 26 requires a computation of each category of damages claimed by the disclosing party.
 14 Fed. R. Civ. P. 26(a)(1)(A)(iii). In November 2010, Fidelity supplemented its initial disclosures and
 15 identified the revised proofs of loss submitted to National on December 28, 2009 as the computation of
 16 its damages for payments owed under the bond, with an additional supplementation as to two of the
 17 proofs. [Ex. 1 lodged in supp. of National's mot.] National contends that this computation is
 18 insufficient and should be further supplemented.

19 Having reviewed the revised proofs of loss, the Court finds the request reasonable. The revised
 20 proofs were submitted in December 2009. As of July 2010, all the underlying claims were resolved. By
 21 November 2010, Fidelity was in a position to supplement its computation disclosure regarding payments
 22 owed under the bond with greater specificity than it had a year earlier. National's motion to compel
 23 further supplementation of Fidelity's Rule 26 computation of damages disclosure is **GRANTED**.
 24 Fidelity will disclose and identify the amounts paid each claimant that it contends is covered by the bond
 25 and provide the specific amount attributable to each transaction identified in the proofs of loss, no later
 26 than February 7, 2011.

27 Additionally, on November 24, 2010, Fidelity served responses to National's Second Set of
 28 Interrogatories. National seeks further responses of Interrogatories Nos. 12, 14, 19, and 21 through 28.

1 [Ex. 2 lodged in supp. of National's mot.]

2 With regard to Interrogatory No. 14, Fidelity's response identifies a particular set of documents
3 from which it asserts National may determine its response. National has not stated why this
4 identification is inadequate for it to ascertain the requested information. The motion with regard to a
5 further response to Interrogatory No. 14 is **DENIED**.

6 As to Fidelity's responses to Interrogatories Nos. 12, 19 and 21 through 28, the motion is
7 **GRANTED**. Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 33(d) permits a party responding to an interrogatory to
8 answer by specifying a party's business records from which the answer can be ascertained. With regard
9 to these responses, Fidelity identified some business documents but additionally included thousands of
10 pages of discovery including deposition transcript pages as part of its response. These responses are a
11 misuse of the business records option as a discovery response to an interrogatory. Fidelity will provide a
12 verified narrative statement responding to each of these interrogatories no later than February 18, 2011.
13 All objections, except attorney-client privilege, are deemed a waived and full and complete responsive
14 answers will be provided.

15 **IT IS SO ORDERED.**

16 DATED: February 1, 2011

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19 **CATHY ANN BENCIVENGO**
20 United States Magistrate Judge
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